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Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations Peacekeeping Operations: financing of the United Nations Peacekeeping Operations

Death and disability benefits

Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the note by the Secretary-General on death and disability benefits (A/C.5/55/40 and Corr.1). During its consideration of the note, the Committee met with representatives of the Secretary-General, who provided additional information.

2. The note by the Secretary-General constitutes the first annual report on the status of all death and disability claims, in accordance with the recommendations made by the Advisory Committee in its report dated 3 March 2000 (A/54/782), endorsed by the General Assembly in its decision 54/459 B.

3. The Advisory Committee welcomes the improvement in the presentation of the report. However, it is of the opinion that there is still room for further improvement. **While noting the position set out in paragraph 4 of the note, the Advisory Committee requests that a column be added to tables A and B of the annex indicating the dollar amount of the claims settled and paid during the specific reporting year.**

4. The Advisory Committee also welcomes the fact that the 90 claims shown as pending at 31 December 2000 in tables A and B of the annex, and referred to in paragraph 3 of the note, do not include any claims for periods prior to 19 May 1997, in respect of which the backlog has finally been cleared. The Committee was further informed that of the 90 claims pending at 31 December 2000, 12 claims related to the new (ex gratia) regime, while 78 were being processed under the old (national legislation) regime. Furthermore, of the 78 claims, 13 related to active missions, while 65 related to missions in liquidation.

5. **The Advisory Committee requests that information be included in the next report on the complete process for the settlement of death and disability claims.** The Committee was informed that processing time was approximately six to

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eight months, particularly with regard to disability claims. The Committee will provide further comments in this regard when it examines the information to be provided. **In the meantime, however, the Advisory Committee believes that steps should be taken to involve the permanent missions at the outset of the exercise, in order to facilitate and accelerate the process.**